

# SPARKS

W9OG



SEPTEMBER 1976

*Fay A. Gehres W9AIN*  
*2632 Powell Ave*  
*Evansville, Ind 47714*

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

## Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Late Bulletin-----

TARS Meeting for September 1976 will be at WIKY Radio Station at 1162 Mt. Auburn Rd. Evansville. The meeting will be at 7:30 PM as usual.

### OFFICERS

PRES:  
VP: Randy Riggs WB9RDS  
SEC: Steve Harris WB9OYD  
TREAS: Mike McNeely K9HCK  
EDITOR: John Kell K9TKE

### DIRECTORS

Robert Barrett WB9LCA  
Charles Redding WA9WCE  
Terry McCrary WB9KQF  
Mike Townsend W9KXP  
Hazel Flippen WB9RIU  
Ken Small WA9HGA

FROM WB9RDS:

ISUE.....Things are starting to happen with the class at ISUE. The first add was in the Sunday Look(Aug 29) and as of Tuesday, the 31st we have eight(8) paid enrollments. The teaching material is starting to come in from ARRL and more is on the way. The class starts Sept 27th and runs for 10 Mondays. Cost is \$35.00. If you know anyone who is interested in taking the class, have them call ISUE at 426-1251 and ask for the Continuing Education Dept.

On Monday Sept 20th we will have a meeting at ISUE for the purpose of finding out what will be

available to the class. This will also familiarize the people who will be working with the class with the campus. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at 6:30 in the Technology Bldg. That is the very last bldg. where the main road (University Blvd) comes to an end. Look for more ads on radio and TV and help promote the class as much as you can.

CHRISTMAS... That's right, it's closer than you think. Plans are being made for the 17th, 18th & 19th of December to have a Demo Station and a message origination center set up at Washington Square Mall. This will be an excellent opportunity to show people that there is an alternative to Citizens Band and render a public service at the same time. If you have any ideas for displays, let me know. Also, would some one like to volunteer to be project chairman? This one is going to take a lot of manpower, because we'll have to keep the booth manned all the time the mall is open. I know we can do it if we all pull together.

CRYSTALS.....We are better than half way there on the crystal order. I'm still taking orders so if you need any 2 meter crystals, the price is only \$3.60 ea. Call me at 464-3111 or on the repeater. Good time to get that 29-79 pair and a 46 simplex pair.

Official Bulletin NR 604 from ARRL HQ Aug 19.... Beginning Oct 1, 1976 the FCC will cease issuing distinctive callsigns to Novices. FCC stated that the practice has created difficulties in processing applications, and has generally proven unsatisfactory. Starting Oct 1, 1976 Novices will be issued call signs that would not require changing upon upgrading to a permanent class of license. That is, Novices will be issued call signs with prefixes such as WA, WB, WD, KH6, KL7, etc. Those novices currently holding licenses expiring Oct 1 or later will be automatically issued new licenses in the near future to reflect the changes. This group should continue using their Novice prefix until receipt of the modified licenses. AR.

Randy.

## ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES

Antenna, Mast and Tower	Thordarson and Triad Transformers	Sprague Condensers Utah Speakers
Push Up Mast 20-30-40-50 ft.	Blonder-Tongue Antennas	I.R.C. Controls and Resistors
Electro-Voice Turner and Shure Mikes	GE Tubes	Vaco, Xcelite, and Boker Tools
Eico and Eicocraft	Miller Coils	Bogan Amplifiers

# WESCO RADIO PARTS

428 Pennsylvania Street

Phone 422-2141

NOTICE----Due to the change in the work schedule at the Editor's the deadline for articles to appear in SPARKS has been moved up a few days. Next months articles must arrive before sundown October 3rd. Please send to K9TKE John Kell RFD 1 Box 284 Newburgh, Ind 47630 Tel 853-3082  
Thank You.

I WOULD LIKE TO START OR CONTINUE MY MEMBERSHIP IN TARS, INCLUDING SUBSCRIPTION TO "SPARKS."

ENCLOSED: \$8 for membership and subscription, per year.

WR9ADQ Repeater Donations accepted.

Name Call

Address

City State Zip

Send to: Mike McNeely K9HCK  
618 Sheridan Rd.  
Evansville, Ind. 47710

HEARD ON THE PARTY LINE from ARNS  
by Charley Vorderberg WØCCT

We were asked if we read the new ARRL Radio  
Amateur's Handbook, No, We are waiting until they  
make it into a movie.

Remember Hams--A closed mouth gathers no foot.  
Another call book is out! Same old problem though,  
strong case but a weak plot.

Inanimate objects might carry on interesting  
conversations. A few examples:

Transmitter: I'm loaded

Antenna: I'm higher than you

IBM card: I'm holier than thou

Impedance: Got a match

Vacuum tube; I'm all keyed up

Dipole: I'm about to fold

Ground: I've got a potential

Harmonic: I'm trapped

DX: Si, Si. (DXCC)

Grid: I'll drive

Capacitor: I need a fix

Audio: I've been converted

Bands: I'll pass

Log: I've been kept.

The man who said two heads are better than one  
didn't think about the extra headphones involved.

WØCCT

FOR SALE: Hufco Rfrequency Counter Model TWS-600  
Will count to 250 MHZ. Like New. Contact W9OU.  
Price \$140.00

A call to Tri-State Communications indicates that  
the I D er for the 19-79 repeater should be ready  
by the time you are reading this. K9TKE

There are some WT calls on the air, seems FCC  
blew it again. They were supposed to issue WD  
calls after WB's. Guess they will have to correct  
that also.

FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-110 Rcvr Mint with clock  
\$90.00 Contact Dave Burr WN9SLZ 853-5766

## CW Scene

The person who said "It takes all kind to make  
up a world" had been listening on the CW portion  
of the Ham bands. In a few months of operating  
on CW I have heard and tried to work all kinds of  
Key Slappers, Bug Beaters, Paddle Pushers, and  
Keyboard Columbus's. It has been my experience  
that to be able to copy the assortment of CW  
emanating from the bands, you have to have an  
understanding of the instrument being abused and  
the method of abuse. The first I mention is used  
mostly by the older variety of ham and is quite  
possibly a dying variety and hopefully becoming  
extinct, that of key slapping. This is accomplished  
with the most common variety of sending device, the  
ordinary hand key. The method of using same is  
slapping with the open hand, held flat some one  
to six inches above the key, and descended upon  
to produce CW? The second method the Semi-automatic  
key or bug is used. This fine instrument can with  
proper use produce some good CW. In some cases  
it is also misused. The type of misuse I'm talk-  
ing of is that of holding the thumb and index  
finger too far apart, using too much back-and-forth  
hand motion to activate the bug. The result is  
that the bug takes quite a beating. Thus the  
dah's begin to resemble the dit's and the only  
distinguishable difference is the spacing between  
same. Listen to HBN. The third variety of abuse  
is the user of the electronic keyer and paddle.  
This method of CW is a very good one and very  
popular on the bands today. However, there are  
some who manage to misuse it also. The type most  
often heard is the op who has his keyer set for  
10 wpm and he is trying to get 15 out of it.  
Another is the op who can operate his keyer and  
paddle at 15 wpm but who has a 10 wpm brain.  
Much of the confusion in CW comes from any of the  
above mentioned methods where the ops are pushing  
too fast and do not allow for normal spacing  
between letters and words so that the CW at any  
speed becomes impossible to de-code. The fourth  
method is one not too popular today, because of  
the expense involved, the keyboard. This superb  
method can also be abused by those who do not know  
the keyboard well enough and have to use the  
columbus method of discover and land on it. If

the op on the receiving end knows what method of abuse is in progress he can sometimes make some allowances for same but to sit there in the dark and wonder what is going on is quite baffling. It would be beautiful if everyone could send perfect CW, but alas, this is not the case. The suggestion made to send along with WIAW(off the air) during their code practice sessions is a very good way to determine if your CW is something less than pure. There are many good ops on the ham bands. Be One!

K9TKE

DX Report.....An attempt is being made to start a DX column where reports of DX contacts are made, or even DX heard. For this I would like 4 things. DX station call, Frequency, date and time. This month's report is very limited. From WB9LCA... TI3NK/8 on 21.300 Aug 29 1930Z. Thanks Bob. These reports could be helpful to others who wish to work DX to know where and when. Send reports to K9TKE on 2 Meters, 853-3082 or send to RFD 1 Box 284 Newburgh, Ind 47630. Thank You.

FOR SALE: 1 GTX 200 with 11 sets of crystals for 185.00. Contact WB9LCA 985-2988

The Skywarn Telephone Number which should not be used except in case of extreme weather conditions is available to those who wish to report severe weather. This being, as designated by the weather personel, damaging winds, Hail of 3/4 inch or more, An actual sighting of a funnel cloud, and severe flooding. For this, the number is 425-3789.

FOR SALE: E. F. Johnson Semt-automatic key(bug) can be used as bug or paddle. \$7.00 K9TKE

WB9PZB reports that he is ready to start another Novice class in Mt. Vernon.

W9FJP reports some fault service from FCC. A renewal application filed Feb 15, 1976 was acted upon Aug 6, 1976 and received Aug 28, 1976. At this rate to get to be a 5 yr old ham, you would have to start about time you learned to talk.

### AUTHORIZED DEALER

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W A 9 0 C 0-----George----- (812) 853-8198

CLOSED MONDAY

TARS regular monthly meetings are held at the corner of Second and Virginia Streets at the "Lighthouse" on the Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The officers and directors meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. The Tri-State Emergency Net meets each Wednesday at 8 p.m. local time on the WR9ADQ repeater. 147.75-15 Mhz.

QUESTION: Does a retired person ever have any "Days Off" and if so what does he do different?

### POEM ?

from ARNS

Long ago when I was callow,  
Things my parents wouldn't allow  
Made me wish that I was grown up;  
Then I'd go and paint the town up.  
(Even wise restricted chafes)  
I would frequent bars and cafes.  
Such, alas, is human nature,  
Now that I am finally mature  
And without permission granted,  
Free to do the things I wanted--  
Swinger, barfly, cafe lounge--  
All I wish to be is younger!

Drake Regency, Hallicrafters, Johnson, National, Gonset  
B & W, Eico, Sencore, Unger

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